

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING
FORMAL HEARINGS
September 14, 2009**

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the Virginia Board of Nursing was called to order at 9:10 A.M. on September 14, 2009 in Board Room 2, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico Virginia.

**BOARD MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Patricia M. Selig, R.N., F.N.P., Ph.D, Vice President
Peregrin Francisco, R.N. M.S.A.
Joyce A. Hahn, Ph.D.; APRN, NEA-BC
John M. Horn, L.P.N.
Patricia C. Lane, R.N., B.S.N., M.B.A.

STAFF PRESENT:

Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director
Jodi P. Power, R.N., J.D., Deputy Executive Director
Paula B. Saxby, R.N., Ph.D, Deputy Executive Director
Donna Lee, Senior Discipline Specialist
Amy Davis, Administrative Assistant (joined later)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Howard M. Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General

**ESTABLISHMENT OF
A QUORUM:**

With five members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

FORMAL HEARINGS:

**American International Institute of Health (AIHH) Practical Nursing
Education Program**

Dr. Edward Erinle appeared, accompanied by Jonathan Joseph and associate Dana Dews, attorneys representing AIHH.

James Schliessmann, Assistant Attorney General and LaRhonda Carter, Adjudication Specialist represented the Commonwealth. Mr. Casway was legal counsel for the Board. Beth Aliff, court reporter, recorded the proceedings.

Jessica Ressler, R.N., Nursing Education Consultant, Board of Nursing; Barbara Applegate, R.N., Onsite Visitor, Board of Nursing were present and testified.

RECESS:

The Board recessed at 12:35 P.M.

RECONVENTION:

The Board reconvened at 1:09 P.M. and continued with witness testimonies.

Ms. Lee left the meeting and Ms. Davis joined the meeting.

Edward Erinle, R.N., M.D., Program Director, AIIH; Denise Pope, Ph.D., R.N., were present and testified.

RECESS: The Board recessed at 3:11 P.M.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened at 3:25 P.M.

CLOSED MEETING: Ms. Francisco moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 3:43 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of American International Institute of Health Practical Nursing Education Program. Additionally, Ms. Francisco moved that Ms. Power, Dr. Saxby, Ms. Davis and Mr. Casway attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary and their presence will aid the Board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 6:05 P.M.

Mr. Horn moved that the Board of Nursing certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Dr. Hahn moved that the Board of Nursing accept the findings of fact and conclusions of law as presented by Mr. Schliessmann and amended by the Board. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Francisco moved that the Board of Nursing deny full approval and withdraw provisional approval of the practical nursing education program of AIIH. Effective upon entry of this order, AIIH shall be prohibited from admitting any students to the practical nursing program and said program shall be closed no later than January 31, 2010. Further, it is ordered that AIIH shall provide to the Board a list of names of students transferred to other approved programs by March 1, 2010. AIIH shall make provisions for the custody of records by providing transcripts of all students and graduates for safekeeping by the Board by March 1, 2010.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

This decision shall be effective upon the entry by the Board of a written Order stating the findings, conclusions, and decision of this formal hearing panel.

RECESS: The Board recessed at 6:10 P.M.

Ms. Power left the meeting.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened at 7:00 P.M.

FORMAL HEARINGS:

ALMA School of Nursing and Allied Health Practical Nursing Education Program

Hassan Koroma appeared, accompanied by Yabom Sesay.

James Schliessmann, Assistant Attorney General and LaRhonda Carter, Adjudication Specialist, represented the Commonwealth. Mr. Casway was legal counsel for the Board. Beth Aliff, court reporter, recorded the proceedings.

Barbara Applegate, R.N., On-site visitor, Board of Nursing; Yabom Sesay, Admissions Director and Co-owner of ALMA School of Nursing and Allied Health; Hassan Koroma, Director, Co-owner, ALMA School of Nursing and Allied Health were present and testified.

CLOSED MEETING:

Ms. Francisco moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 8:19 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of ALMA School of Nursing and Allied Health Practical Nursing Education Program. Additionally, Ms. Francisco moved that Ms. Douglas, Dr. Saxby, Ms. Davis and Mr. Casway attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary and their presence will aid the Board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION:

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:24 P.M.

Mr. Horn moved that the Board of Nursing certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Ms. Francisco moved that the Board of Nursing accept the findings of fact and conclusions of law as presented by Mr. Schliessmann and amended by the Board. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION:

Dr. Hahn moved that the Board of Nursing deny full approval and withdraw provisional approval of ALMA School of Nursing and Allied Health Practical Nursing Education Program. Effective upon entry of this order, ALMA shall be prohibited from admitting any students to the practical nursing education program and said program shall be closed no later than June 30, 2010. Further, it is ordered that ALMA shall provide to the Board a list of names of students transferred to other approved programs by July 31, 2010. ALMA shall make provisions for the custody of records by providing transcripts of all students and graduates for safekeeping by the Board by July 31, 2010.

The motion was seconded and carried. Dr. Selig, Ms. Francisco and Dr. Hahn were in favor of the motion. Mr. Horn and Ms. Lane opposed the motion.

This decision shall be effective upon the entry by the Board of a written Order stating the findings, conclusions, and decision of this formal hearing panel.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Board adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

Jodi P. Power, R.N., J.D.
Deputy Executive Director